

THE LOSS OF MULTILINGUALITY:  
ASPECTS OF THE MORAVIAN COMPROMISE

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In view of the topicality of the principles of self-determination, which aroused demands for "national autonomy" and the protection of minorities in the name of these principles, it appears that the Moravian Compromise was not only relevant historically. The author critically examines the much praised compact of 1905 as a political instrument of extreme ambivalence. She focuses on a little noticed aspect of the Compromise, which she describes as the loss of multilinguality. Her analysis of the so-called *Lex Pereš* shows that unilinguality was expressly demanded as the essence of the national subject. This stood in contradiction to the transnational identity of many Moravians and was calculated to wipe out such collective arrangements as "child exchange." The consequence of the Moravian Compromise was that it imposed a responsibility on national life, a responsibility that only few could evade.